

# Finding Your Niche: Feral Hog Program Shines a Spotlight on the Plum Creek Watershed

---

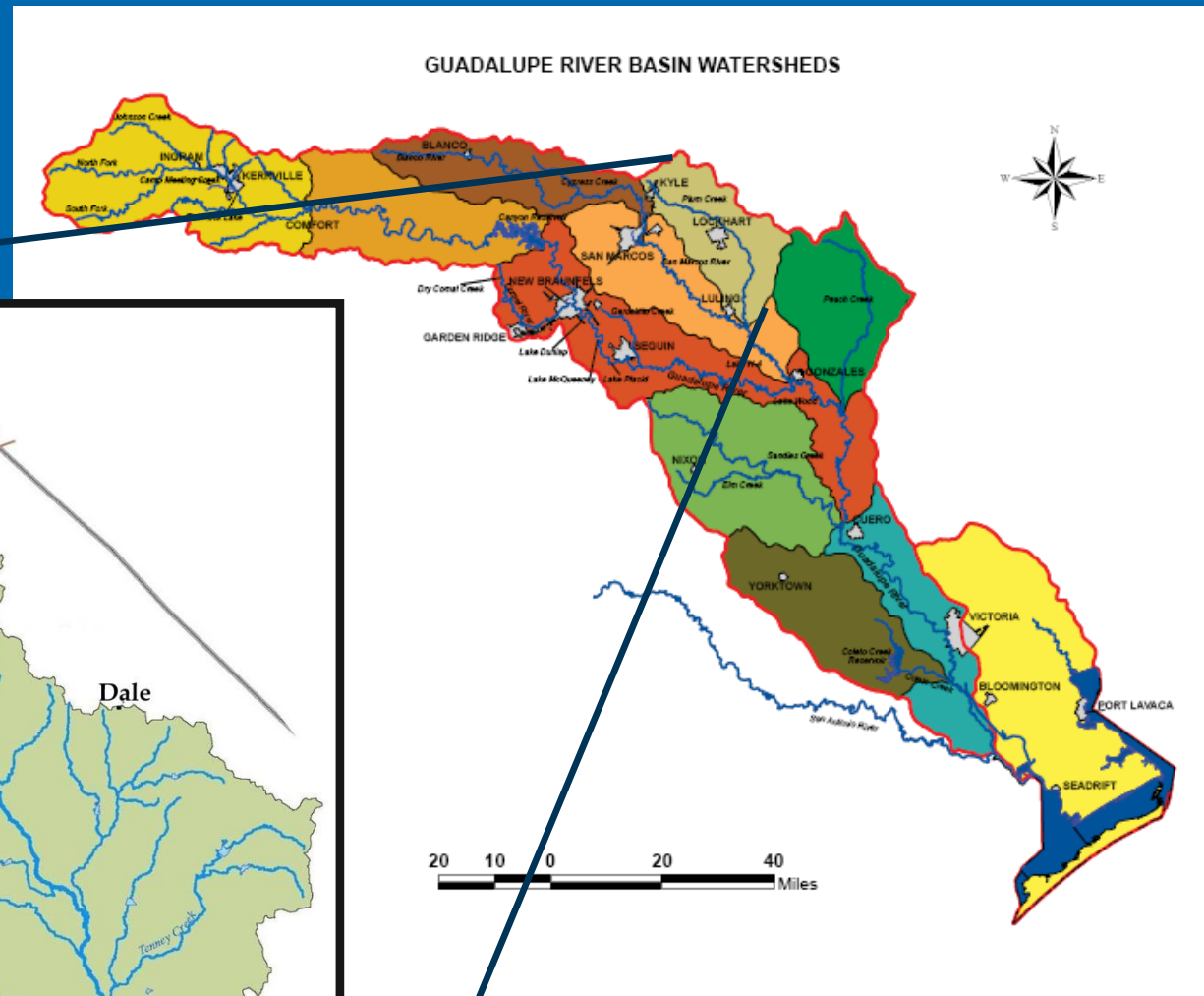
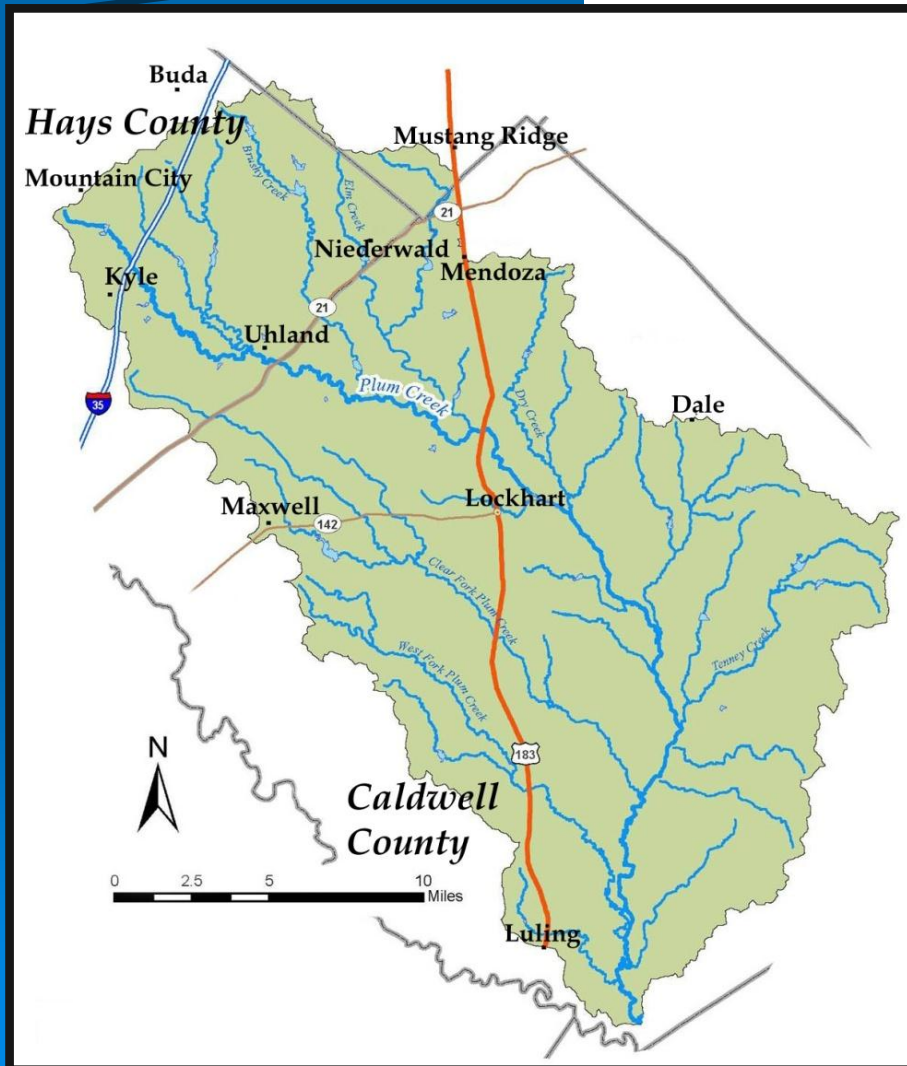


Southeast and South  
Central Texas  
Regional Watershed  
Coordination  
Steering  
Committee:

Columbus, Texas  
March 7, 2013



# Plum Creek Watershed





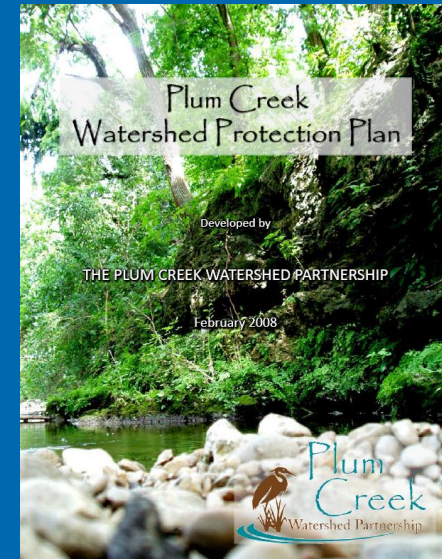
# Plum Creek Water Quality Concerns

A brief history:

- Plum Creek was placed on the State of Texas 2004 303(d) List of Impaired Waters for exceeding the water quality standard for bacteria (*E. coli*) and still does not support its designated use for contact recreation.
- Plum Creek is also listed on the 2010 Texas Integrated Report for concerns that include depressed dissolved oxygen and elevated nutrient concerns for nitrates, orthophosphorus and total phosphorous.
- Based on monitoring conducted by the GBRAs Clean Rivers Program and the TCEQ, bacteria levels in Plum Creek exceed the stream standard of 126 org./100 ml for contact recreation

# Managing Pollutant Sources

Potential Sources	Bacteria	Nutrients	Other
<u>Septic Systems</u>	X	X	X
<u>Wildlife</u>			
Deer	X	X	
Feral Hogs	X	X	
<u>Cropland</u>		X	
<u>Livestock</u>			
Sheep and Goats	X	X	
Horses	X	X	
Cattle	X	X	
<u>Oil and Gas Production</u>			X
<u>Urban Runoff</u>	X	X	X
<u>Wastewater Treatment Facilities</u>	X	X	



## 2012 Update to Plum Creek Watershed Protection Plan

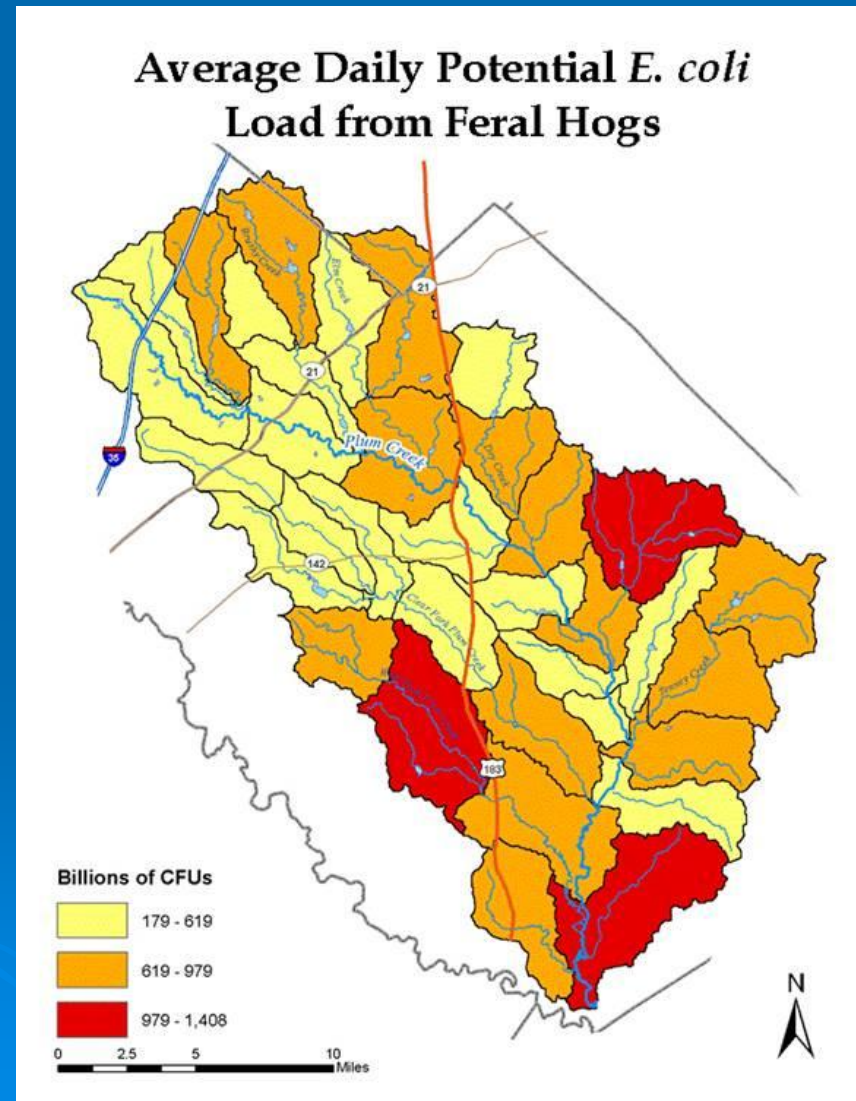
DEVELOPED BY  
THE PLUM CREEK WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP

May 2012



# Feral Hog Management in the Plum Creek Watershed – A Brief History

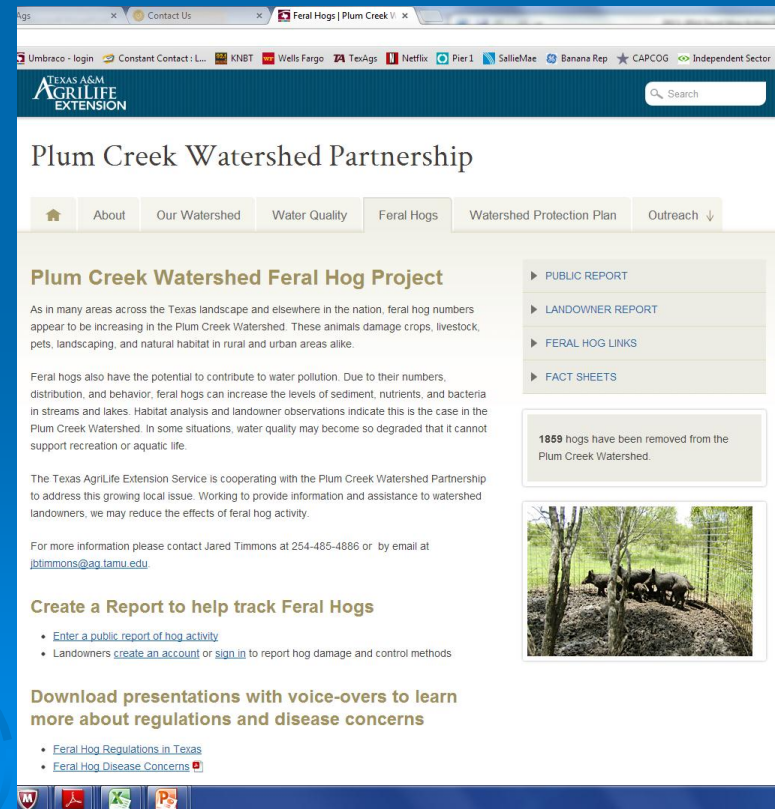
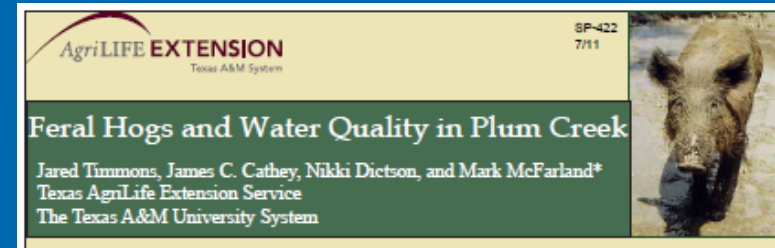
- Estimated TX Population @ 2.6 million
- Estimated Statewide Economic Damage @ \$500 million
- Estimated Annual Harvest Rate is 29%
- Annual Harvest Rate required to maintain current population is 66%
- Local populations difficult to determine
- 2008 WPP estimated 5,139 in the Plum Creek Watershed with a goal to remove 1,835





# Feral Hog Management in the Plum Creek Watershed – A Brief History Cont.

- CWA §319(h) grant supported Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Assistant for education and technical assistance
  - 3,800 attended presentations
  - 16 hardcopy peer-edited articles
  - 35,000 internet downloads
- Texas Wildlife Services Aerial Control
  - January – March 2010
  - 40,000 acre LOA
  - 22 subwatersheds
  - 372 feral hogs removed
  - Very popular
- Self-reporting tool on PCWP website
  - Just over 700 feral hogs reported as removed prior to September 30, 2012





# Texas Department of Agriculture – Hog Out County Grants Program

---

- First time for Hays and Caldwell Counties to participate
- Facilitated by Plum Creek Watershed Partnership
- Program conducted October 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012
- Award Information for FY2013
  - Highest scoring county awarded \$20,000
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> highest awarded \$15,000 and 3<sup>rd</sup> highest \$10,000
  - Other counties awarded based on number of feral hogs harvested
- “Challenge Score”
  - Historic participation
  - 1 point per individual participating in a county-approved educational course
  - 5 points per 10 feral hogs harvested
- Third year for program

# Hog Out County Grants Program ~ Benefits to Participation

## ➤ Counties

- Additional management tool for growing population of feral hogs
- Mitigate property damage (\$200 annually per feral hog)
- Minimal financial investment
- Support from local citizens, businesses and organizations



## ➤ Plum Creek Watershed Partnership

- Potential to decrease bacteria and nutrient loading from feral hogs
- Opportunities for education and outreach
- Improved reporting
- Publicity and association with topic of great local and statewide interest





# Hog Out County Grants Program ~ Feral Hog Removal Component

## ➤ Hays County and Caldwell County feral hog bounty program

- Hogs must be harvested from October 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012
- \$2 per tail (receipt from Certified Holding Facility also accepted)
- Open to residents and non-residents
- Hogs must be harvested in Hays/Caldwell County
- 3 locations in Hays County issuing bounty
- 2 locations in Caldwell County issuing bounty
- 90+ tails turned in on first weekend

## ➤ Prizes

- Over \$1,000 in prizes donated
- One entry per hog
- Cabela's Grand Prize for top individuals
- Maurader Hog Light by Hawglite
- All donations tax deductible through the San Marcos River Foundation



# Hog Out County Grants Program – Feral Hog Removal Component

## ➤ Hays County feral hog bounty claim locations

- Triple S Feed – Dripping Springs
- King Feed – Wimberley
- McCoy's Building and Supply – San Marcos (Saturdays ONLY 10am to 2pm)
- Plum Creek Watershed Partnership Office – Lockhart (By appointment ONLY)

## ➤ Caldwell County feral hog bounty claim locations

- Caldwell County Farm and Ranch – Lockhart
- Salt Flat Feed and Mercantile – Luling
- Plum Creek Watershed Partnership Office – Lockhart (By appointment ONLY)

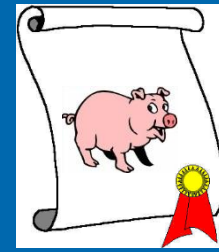








# Hog Out County Grants Program – Educational Programs



- Caldwell County Workshop, Luling Foundation
  - October 16<sup>th</sup>, Luling Foundation – CANCELLED
- Caldwell County Extension, Feral Hog Webinar
  - October 23<sup>rd</sup> – 12pm to 1pm (8 participants)
- Cabela's mini-workshops
  - October 25<sup>th</sup> – 6 pm and 7 pm (6 participants)
  - October 28<sup>th</sup> – 3 pm and 4 pm (5 participants)
- Hays County Extension, Feral Hog Workshop
  - October 30<sup>th</sup> – 6 pm through 9 pm (32 participants)
  - 3 hours TDA CEU's for Commercial & Private Applicators
  - Cost - \$20 (included handouts and meal)
  - Door prizes!
- Plum Creek Watershed Partnership Meeting, Lockhart State Park
  - November 8<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 pm to 9 pm (54 participants)



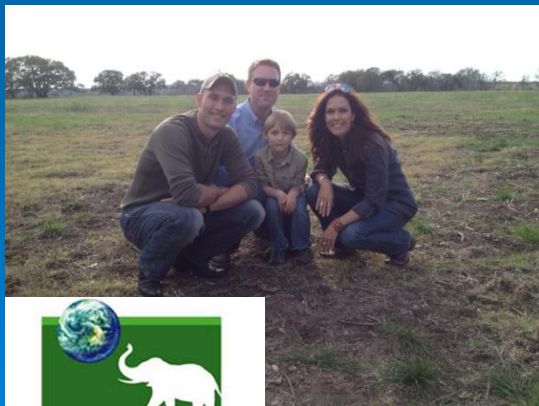
# Hog Out County Grants Program – PCWP Publicity and Support



Tiger Tote

Harwood Farm  
and Ranch

Caldwell  
County  
Farm  
and  
Ranch



C&J's Auto Supply



Triple "S" Feeds



Salt Flat  
Feed and  
Mercantile



# Hog Out County Grants Program – Results

- Hays County results:
  - 110 feral hogs harvested
  - 57 individuals educated
  - Grand Prize Winner: Walter Elias
- Caldwell County results:
  - 1,025 feral hogs harvested
  - 68 individuals educated
  - Grand Prize Winner: Jacob Hohertz
- March 1, 2013 – Prizes available for pickup at Caldwell County Feral Hog Task Force booth at the Caldwell County Youth Livestock show
- **PARLAY EXPOSURE INTO ADDITIONAL ASPECTS OF WPP!!!**





# Hays - Caldwell County - Feral Hog Task Force

---

- December 21, 2012 – Watershed Coordinator met with Lt. Governor's Office to discuss potential funding for feral hog project in Caldwell County
- January 8, 2013 – First meeting of the Caldwell County Feral Hog Task Force facilitated by Plum Creek Watershed Coordinator
  - 19 Attendees – Minutes available on PCWP website
  - Develop FY2014 feral hog action plan for Caldwell County
  - Watershed Coordinator will work with Task Force members to develop draft action plan.
- Watershed Coordinator was approached by TDA staff to propose a pilot project to be conducted in Caldwell County and directed by the Task Force.
- Discussion begins to develop joint Task Force with Hays County
- February 18, 2013 – Meeting with State Representatives to discuss possible legislation to fund project
- February 26, 2013 - Draft 2013 Feral Hog Action Plan for Hays-Caldwell County
- March 6, 2013 – Meeting with TDA Staff to discuss Action Plan

# Draft Hays - Caldwell County Feral Hog Action Plan, FY2014 and FY2015

- Goal to remove 11,100 feral hogs over 2 years
- 2 county-based trapping crews
  - 6-month contracts
  - Operate 5 wireless trapping systems per county
- Trapping systems available for landowners
  - Deposit and removal fees
- Aerial Control
  - Intensive early control
  - Goal for 150,000 acre LOA
- Feral Hog Round-Ups
- Wildlife Exclosures – cost share available for landowners
- Work with Approved Feral Swine Holding Facilities
  - Local collection
  - Donation of profits to shelters and food banks
- All partners must sign agreement to practice approved live removal, personal consumption or carcass disposal methods



# PCWP Steering Committee Meeting

Thursday, May 2, 2013

6:30 to 8:00 pm

Lockhart State Park, Lockhart



# Thanks!

Nick Dornak,  
Plum Creek Watershed Coordinator

[ndornak@plumcreekwatershed.org](mailto:ndornak@plumcreekwatershed.org)

1403 Blackjack Street, Suite B  
Lockhart, TX 78644

(512)213-7389

